



Message of the Week

February 26 March 4, 2003

Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

**“All human cloning is dangerous and immoral
and therefore must be banned.”**

- Human cloning is a type of “asexual” reproduction, which means reproduction not initiated by the union of egg and sperm. Cloning is accomplished by a technique called “somatic cell nuclear transfer.” One takes the nucleus from a body (somatic) cell and transfers it into a female egg which has had its nuclear material removed. Then with an electric current or chemical stimulus, the cloned embryo begins to divide as does a fertilized embryo. The product of human cloning is a human embryo.
- In animal cloning, 95-98% of all cloning attempts end in failure.
- Almost all successfully cloned animals have genetic abnormalities.
- Most scientific experts claim that the attempt to clone human organisms does not account for scientific problems which occur with animal cloning, and therefore, any such attempts could result in even higher failure rates.
- Most scientists agree that human cloning poses a serious risk of producing children who are stillborn, unhealthy, severely malformed, or disabled. Additional scientific problems with human cloning include the potential for mutation, transmission of cellular diseases, and the negative effects from the aging genetic material. Scientists have no idea how all this would effect the psyche of a cloned human being.
- The attempt to perfect human cloning despite the high risks of injury would constitute a violation of the fundamental principle all human research: Do No Harm. To proceed on the basis that the eventual benefits may outweigh the probable harms to woman and child is akin to the Nazi experiments condemned at Nuremberg.
- Efforts to create human beings by cloning shift human reproduction into a manufacturing process in which children are made in laboratories to preordained specifications and in multiple copies.

- Cloning human children would be a large step toward eugenics and the commodification of human life. Human cloning involves genetic experimentation in the pursuit of creating the “perfect child.”
- Will human clones—especially if most are “functionally” deficient in some way—be seen as having the same rights, freedoms, and protections as every other individual in society?
- While people have indicated a desire to be cloned, almost no one has claimed that he would want to be a clone. The desire to clone oneself is the ultimate in narcissism.
- Cloning could easily be used to reproduce living or deceased persons without their informed consent. Skin cells could be used from one's toothbrush or comb.
- Research cloning, creating human cloned embryos solely for research purposes, is dangerously utilitarian in nature. Creating nascent human life for the express purpose of exploiting and then destroying it to do research for others follows the principle that the ends justify the means. Even many supporters of abortion rights have condemned such exploitation as grossly immoral and profoundly disrespectful of human life.
- Human cloning is scientifically dangerous and ethically abhorrent to all but a rare few in society. This commercialization of human life must be banned *before* it becomes unstoppable.

For more information on human cloning, contact David Christensen in office of Rep. Dave Weldon (R-FL) at 202-225-3671, or visit this website: <http://www.house.gov/weldon/issues/cloning.htm>.